

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A
PRESS RELEASE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL WORKING
MEETING OF EXPERTS ON A GLOBAL CONTROL SYSTEM**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, dated 15 February 2001, regarding the outcome of the second international working meeting of experts on a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies.

I should be grateful if this press release could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and to non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Vasily SIDOROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the Conference on Disarmament

Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the outcome of the second international working meeting of experts on a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies, held on 15 February 2001

On 15 February 2001, the second international working meeting of experts on the creation of a global control system for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies was held in Moscow. Representatives of more than 70 countries and of the United Nations took part.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, Mr. Georgy Mamedov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, stressed that the global control system, which was first mooted as part of a package of new disarmament initiatives put forward by President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, is envisaged as an important component of strategic stability and broad international cooperation. It must be shaped with the participation of all interested States, in strict compliance with the principle of the equality and equal security of countries, and with due account for the economic and technical benefits of its operation for all participating States.

The idea of a global control system was put forward by Russia in June 1999 as a set of political and diplomatic measures intended to counter the emergence of missile threats in the world and designed to create conditions such that there would be increasingly less motivation to obtain and disseminate military missile technologies. The measures also had as their aim the long-term creation of a comprehensive missile non-proliferation regime.

The concept of the global control system envisages, among other things, such multilateral international arrangements as the establishment of a mechanism for the notification of launches of ballistic missiles and of space carrier rockets, to provide strengthened assurance to States of the safe and non-aggressive use of rockets in times of peace; a mechanism to encourage and provide incentives for States to renounce the possession of rocket systems for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction; a mechanism for providing security guarantees to such States; a mechanism for international consultation to resolve uncertainties and disputes and to tackle the further improvement of the global control system; and a mechanism to ensure transparency in the field of space carrier-rocket programmes.

All these and other ideas, considerations and suggestions were deliberated at the meeting, which was of an informal, working character, with free discussion and a broad exchange of opinion. The participation in the second international working meeting of representatives of virtually all the States members of the missile technology control regime, and also of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and other influential States, lent particular weight to its deliberations.

The second meeting of experts has demonstrated the growing support by the international community for the idea of a global control system, as a means toward resolving issues of missile non-proliferation by essentially political, diplomatic and economic methods, rather than by military means.

Participants at the meeting called for the active continuation of work on the global control system, including by bringing the issue before the United Nations. It was suggested that work should begin on a gradual examination of the various practical aspects of the creation of the mechanisms envisaged in the global control system, including the preparation of an international agreement on a multilateral regime for rocket-launch notifications. Participants stressed the importance of putting the global security system concept into effect and the need for efforts to strengthen the missile technology control regime. In this context, they also discussed the draft international code of conduct to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles, prepared under the missile technology control regime.

All in all, the second international meeting of experts on a global control system demonstrated the determination of the international community to consolidate its efforts to counter the proliferation of missiles and missile technologies in the world, in an endeavour to identify and implement effective non-military mechanisms for resolving this problem. The participants declared the meeting a success, deeming it both useful and constructive. The experts on the global control system will hold further meetings.
